

Volume 05, Issue 01: 2018

Public Health Evidence South Asia (PHESA) is an initiative which includes the South Asian satellite of Cochrane Public Health, based at Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal. PHESA aims to meet the public health evidence needs of the South Asian region. Presently, we have grown into an international network with global collaborations, including many universities, public health organizations and NGOs. Our staff and interns have roots across the globe. We aim to partner with various organizations and individuals spanning subject areas to solve a variety of public health problems faced by low and middle income countries (LMICs). We work together to foster a flexible environment which inspires new ideas, debates, changes and innovation; with a focus on capacity building in public health research.

Highlights of this edition

- **South Asian Evidence Summit (SES)**
- **SES-2018: Pre-Conference Workshop-Introduction to Mixed Methods Research**
- **SES-2018: Pre-Conference Workshop-Research to Community through Media**
- **SES-2018: Pre-Conference Workshop-Translating Evidence to Policy**
- **Certificate Course On “Evidence Synthesis: Systematic Review and Meta- analysis”**
- **TCQM Summer School 2018 on Qualitative Research Methods for Health Sciences**

Message from the Department chair

Public Health Evidence South Asia is pleased to release its newsletter 'Evidensia' for the first four months of year 2018. This is a triannual newsletter and provides information on the latest activities taking place at PHESA. The newsletter is intended to provide news and updates on the department activities and information on evidence synthesis. This edition highlights the annual conference organized by PHESA (South Asian Evidence Summit), workshops, training courses and certificate courses conducted on evidence synthesis, mixed methods research and qualitative research, funded projects, latest publications, recent past events, upcoming events, country-wide conferences and workshops attended by PHESA staff and opportunities for researchers. We hope you enjoy reading this edition! -Dr. Bhumika T.V., Coordinator, PHESA

Capacity building

Certificate Course On “Evidence Synthesis: Systematic Review and Meta-analysis”

Public Health Evidence South Asia (PHESA) has initiated a certificate course on ‘Evidence synthesis: Systematic review and Meta- Analysis’. The course aims at sensitizing the participants on systematic review methodology and providing detailed step-by-step guidance on how to perform systematic reviews and meta-analysis. This is the first certificate course hosted by PHESA and will be organized for a period of three months. The program was inaugurated on 3rd March’18 at 2 pm by the chief guest, Dr. Shyamala Hande, Deputy Registrar Academics -Health Sciences MAHE, Manipal. The other dignitaries present were Dr. N. Sreekumaran Nair,

Professor and Head, Department of Biostatistics, Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry, Dr. B. Unnikrishnan, Associate Dean & Professor, Community Medicine, KMC Mangalore and Dr. Suma Nair, Professor & Head, Department of Community Medicine, KMC Manipal. Twenty-two participants representing various disciplines from Manipal and Mangalore, registered for the course.



This course is based on the principle of “Learning by doing”. Objective of the course is to sensitize the participants to systematic review methodology and provide detailed and steady guidance on how to perform a systematic review and meta-analysis. Every step of a systematic review will be elaborately explained and practical exposure will be provided in the form of practice exercises, take-home assignments, group activities and hands-on training. Participants will also be provided with practical tips on do’s and don’ts during the review process. At the end of this course, participants will understand the importance of SR and gain in-depth knowledge about systematic review methodology.

Pre conference Workshops-31st January and 1st February 2018

Mixed Methods for Systematic Reviews



A half day workshop on Mixed Methods for Systematic Reviews was conducted on 31st January 2018. Dr. Shrinivas Darak, Senior Researcher, PRAYAS Health Group, Pune, talked about the basics of mixed methods research, from the theories and scientific paradigm to the synthesis of primary and systematic review in his workshop.

Research to Community through Media

Professor Subhadra Menon, Executive Director (Research), Kailash Satyarthi Children’s Foundation, New Delhi, talked about packaging research evidence for improved public health outcomes. Professor Menon discussed the current reach and challenges of taking research to the policymakers for change, and where it was generated, the community.



Translating Evidence to Policy



The second day of pre-conference was a full day workshop on 'Translating Evidence to Policy'. Resource persons from different fields shared their experience on the various aspects of evidence to policy followed by a panel discussion at the end. The invited speakers were Dr. B. Unnikrishnan, Dr. Juan Pablo Peña-Rosas, Dr. Anju Sinha, Prof. Subhadra Menon, Dr. Shrinivas Darak, Dr. Helmut Brand and Dr. N Sreekumaran Nair.

Evidence building

Public Works Programmes: How effective are public works programmes in stimulating local economic transformation in low- and middle-income countries?

Funded by Department for International Development (DFID)

Study identifies how Public Works Programs (PWPs) has been able to stimulate local economic transformation in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs). The project report was submitted to DFID on 25th November 2017. The dissemination plan makes sure that the findings of the project reach the target audience. The planned activities include, coordinating round-table discussions, holding webinars, attending conferences, publishing in different journals and coordinating stakeholder discussions.

1. Dr. N Sreekumaran Nair (Principal Investigator)
2. Dr. Bhumika T. V
3. Dr. B Reshmi
4. Dr. Vasudeva Guddattu
5. Ms Ratheebhai V
6. Ms Syama U S
7. Dr. Prachi Pundir
8. Ms. Ann Mary Sebastian
9. Dr. Jisha B Krishnan
10. Ms. Sherize Merlin Sequeira

Publications

- Nair N.S, Venkatesh B.T., Bhageerathy R, Karan A, Unnikrishnan B., Sindhu S.U., Pundir P., Sebastian, A.M., Krishnan, J.B., Guddattu, V., Vijayamma, R., Das U., and Sequeria, S.M. (2017). Public Works Programmes: How effective are public works programmes in stimulating local economic transformation in low and middle income countries? A systematic review. London: EPPI-Centre, Social Science Research Unit, UCL Institute of Education, University College London.
- Nair, S., Venkatesh, B.T., Bhageerathy, N.S., Karan A., Unnikrishnan B, Pundir, P, Sebastian, A,M., S Sindhu, Krishnan, J,B,. Upasak Das, Vijayamma R., Guddattu, V. (2018). Public Works Programmes: How effective are public works programmes in stimulating local economic transformation in low and middle income countries? Contextualisation of review findings. London: EPPI-Centre, Social Science Research Unit, UCL Institute of Education, University College London

Manuscripts under Preparation

- Contextualizing the effectiveness of public works programs in stimulating local economic transformation in low and middle income countries to South Asia and Nepal

- Factors responsible for increasing or decreasing the efficacy of PWPs in local economic transformation in LMICs
- Does community involvement in PWPs improve the effectiveness of the programmes on local economic transformation in LMICs
- Investigating the effectiveness of Public works programmes in stimulating local economic transformation in low and middle income countries: A systematic review and meta-analysis
- A scoping review to find how effective are Public works programmes in stimulating local economic transformation in low and middle income countries.

Determinants of neonatal pneumonia and factors associated with its mortality in India: a systematic review combined with qualitative research approach

Funded by: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and The Inclen trust International

India has the greatest number of neonatal deaths in the world. Through 3 systematic reviews, the study will address the dearth of consolidated evidence on the determining factors and barriers to the case management of neonatal pneumonia in the Indian context. Moreover, various Stakeholders at all levels of the neonatal healthcare system will be interviewed for better understanding of their perceptions on the prevention and management of neonatal pneumonia.

1. Dr. N Sreekumaran Nair (Principal Investigator)
2. Dr. Leslie Edward Lewis
3. Dr. Shruti Murthy
4. Dr. Bhumika T V
5. Dr. Myron Godinho
6. Dr. Vijayashree Dhyani
7. Mr. Theophilus Lakiang

Publications in 2018

- Nair NS, Lewis LE, Godinho M, Murthy S, Lakiang T, Venkatesh BT. Factors associated with neonatal pneumonia in India: protocol for a systematic review and planned meta-analysis. *BMJ Open* 2018; 8: e018790. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2017-018790.

Manuscripts under Preparation

- Stakeholder experiences and perceptions for improving prevention and management of neonatal pneumonia in India: a qualitative study

Effectiveness of different 'gender-responsive policing' initiatives designed to enhance confidence, satisfaction in policing services and reduce risk of violence against women in LMICs.

Funded by: DFID

The review focused on identifying and thematically classifying interventions related to gender responsive policing to address violence against women in LMICs, and synthesizing the existing evidence on the effectiveness of different interventions designed to enhance confidence and satisfaction in policing services, and reduce risk of violence against women in these countries. The project is currently in dissemination phase.

1. Dr. N Sreekumaran Nair (Principal Investigator)
2. Dr. Shrinivas Darak
3. Prof. Anjali Dave
4. Dr. Bhumika TV
5. Dr. Trupti Darak
6. Dr. Kaveri Haritas
7. Ms Ratheebhai V
8. Ms .Maria Mathews
9. Ms. Lourembam Dayashwori Devi

Publications

- N. Sreekumaran Nair, Shrinivas Darak, Bhumika T.V, Trupti Darak, Maria Mathews, L. Dayashwori Devi, Ratheebhai V, and Anjali Dave (2017) 'Gender-responsive policing' initiatives designed to enhance confidence, satisfaction in policing services and reduce risk of violence against women in low and middle income countries - A systematic review. London: EPPI-Centre, Social Science Research Unit, UCL Institute of Education, University College London
- Shrinivas Darak, N. Sreekumaran Nair, Bhumika T.V, Trupti Darak, Maria Mathews, Ratheebhai V, and Anjali Dave (2017) Gender-responsive policing initiatives designed to enhance confidence, satisfaction in policing services and reduce risk of violence against women in low and middle income countries - A systematic review. Implications of evidence for South Asia. London: EPPI-Centre, Social Science Research Unit, UCL Institute of Education, University College London

Manuscripts under Preparation

- Effectiveness of GRP interventions to increase women's safety and satisfaction.
- Evaluation of the GRP interventions framework on gaps and needs.

Effectiveness of behaviour change communication interventions in delivering health messages on antenatal care: an evidence summary of systematic reviews

Funded by: DFID

Maternal and child health (MCH) outcomes have remained poor in low and middle income countries. The coverage of antenatal care (ANC, at least four visits during pregnancy), one of the indicators of maternal health, is 56% in the South Asian region. One of the most cost effective ways of targeting the issues of MCH is through behaviour change communication. This evidence summary of systematic reviews aimed to identify different types and mediums; and the most effective BCC. This project is currently under dissemination phase and manuscript writing based on review findings are in progress.

1. Dr. N Sreekumaran Nair (Principal Investigator)
2. Dr. Shrinivas Darak
3. Dr. Trupti Darak
4. Dr. Shradha Parsekar
5. Prof. Subhadra Menon
6. Dr. Ritu Parchure
7. Ms. Ratheebhai V
8. Ms. Hanna Nelson

Publications

- Sreekumaran Nair N, Sarak S et al.(2016), Effectiveness of behaviour change communication (BCC) interventions in delivering health messages on antenatal care for improving maternal and child health (MCH) indicators in a limited literacy setting: an evidence summary of systematic reviews. Protocol. London: EPPI-Centre, Social Science Research Unit, UCL Institute of Education, University College London
- Nair, S.N., Darak, S., Parchure, R., Parsekar, S.S., Darak, T., Nelson, H., Bevilacqua, V., Vijayamma, R., and Menon, S. (2017). Effectiveness of Behaviour Change Communication interventions in improving the delivery of 3 health messages for ante-natal care in limited literacy settings: Implications of evidence for South Asia. London: EPPI-Centre, Social Science Research Unit, UCL Institute of Education, University College London.

Manuscripts under Preparation

- Effectiveness of BCC strategies in communities to promote maternal and child health.

A systematic review on barriers to exclusive breast feeding

Exclusive breast feeding is defined as, “no other food or drink, not even water, except breast milk (including milk expressed or from a wet nurse) for six months of life, but allows the infant to receive ORS, drops and syrups (vitamins, minerals and medicines)”. Despite all the potential benefits of breast feeding only about two fifths of the infants globally are exclusively breast fed for the first six months. The study aims to identify the significant barriers which women face for EBF. By identifying the barriers to exclusive breastfeeding we will be able to develop new strategies to help mothers to exclusively breast feed their babies for the initial six months of life and achieve the global target for EBF.

1. Dr. Divya Sussana Patil
2. Dr. Vijayashree Dhyani
3. Dr. Prachi Pundir
4. Ms. Sherize Merlin Sequeira
5. Dr. Jisha B. Krishnan
6. Dr. Vishnu Renjith

Registered under Prospero, Record number: CRD42017075269.

https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospero/display_record.php?RecordID=75269

Effect of Food Fortification and Supplementation on Nutritional Status of Women: An evidence summary

Malnutrition is one of the important public health concern in the world. It not only affects health of an individual but also has an impact on the economic, development, social aspects of a country. The evidence summary, intends to summarize available evidence on the effect of food fortification and supplementation on the nutritional status of reproductive age women. Comparisons will also be done for the effect of fortification and supplementation and/or combination of both on nutritional status of women, so that the intervention that is more appropriate for the vulnerable population can be advocated.

1. Dr. Eti Rajwar
2. Dr. Shradha Parsekar
3. Dr. Bhumika TV
4. Ms. Zinnia Sharma
5. Dr. Ramya Nair
6. Ms. Ratheebhai V.

Eti Rajwar, Shradha Parsekar, Bhumika T.V, Zinnia Sharma, Ramya M.T, Ratheebhai Vijayamma. Effect of food fortification and supplementation on nutritional status of women: an evidence summary. PROSPERO2018: CRD42018089403 Available from:

http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/PROSPERO/display_record.php?ID=CRD42018089403

Contextualizing the evidence from systematic review on effect of unconditional cash transfers on use of health services and health outcomes in low and middle income countries to South Asia

Unconditional cash transfer (UCTs) programs aim to reduce poverty by providing welfare programs without any conditions upon the receivers' actions. A systematic review was completed by Pega et al and published in Cochrane Public Health in November 2017. The systematic review made robust evidence available on the effect of UCTs on use of health services and health outcomes. Contextualizing the evidence from the systematic review will help in generating the evidence for applicability of the study findings in South Asia. The contextualization work aims at localizing the evidence to South Asian countries and to summarise if similar effect of UCT will be seen in South Asia.

1. Dr. Prachi Pundir
2. Ms. Ann Mary Sebastian
3. Ms. Zinnia Sharma

Knowledge Dissemination & Advocacy

South Asian Evidence Summit (SES), 31 January to 3 February 2018

Public Health Evidence South Asia (PHESA) MAHE, flagged off their four-day South Asian Evidence Summit (SES) – 2018, with a pre-conference workshop on the 31st January and 1st February, 2018 paving the way to the



two-day conference which was held on 2nd and 3rd February. The theme of the conference was “Converging disciplines for Public Health” and comprised of oral and poster presentations, keynote addresses, and panel discussions on relevant topics.



Inauguration of the summit was held on 2nd February, 2018 and the chief guest was Dr. Juan Pablo Peña- Rosas, Coordinator, Evidence and Program Guidance, Department of Nutrition for Health and Development, World Health Organization, Geneva. Guest of honour for the summit was Dr. Poornima Baliga, Pro Vice Chancellor (Health Sciences), MAHE, Manipal, and the summit was presided by Dr. Helmut Brand, Director, Prasanna School of Public Health (PSPH), MAHE, Manipal, in the presence of Dr. N. Sreekumaran Nair and Dr. Anju Sinha Deputy Director

General, Division of Child Health, Scientist E, Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi. There were six plenary sessions in the two-day conference. The two panel discussions were on the topics “Health Technology Assessment” and “Evidence Synthesis- scope & opportunities in LMICs”. 22 oral presentations and 19 Poster presentations from a wide range of research topics and areas were presented at the conference. The summit had representation from various national and international organizations, like Dr. Joe Varghese from DFID South Asia and Dr. Ashrita Saran from Campbell Collaboration. Dr Ashrita gave a keynote address on Evidence Gaps and Maps and its importance in evidence synthesis. Valedictory ceremony was held on 3rd February 2018. The chief guest for the valedictory ceremony was Dr. Narayana Sabhahit, Registrar, MAHE and the other guests were Dr. Helmut Brand, Dr. N. Sreekumaran Nair and Dr. B. Unnikrishnan.



Feedback on two days of the summit was given by delegates, followed by the prize distribution for poster competition. The vote of thanks was given by Dr. Bhumika T.V.

PHESA PRESENTATIONS DURING OTHER WORKSHOPS/ CONFERENCES

Workshop on Mixed Methods Research, 11 January 2018

Manipal College of Nursing in collaboration with Public Health Evidence South Asia, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, organised a half day workshop on Mixed Methods Research on January 11, 2018. The resource person for the workshop was Dr. Carolyn M. Porta, Associate Professor and Director of Global Health, School of Nursing, University of Minnesota. The workshop was attended by over 70 participants. Dr. Porta explained the concepts of mixed methods research by demonstration with examples and actively engaging the participants. She also explained the newer models for analysis of mixed methods research. Dr. Porta visited PHESA to meet the staff on the next day of the workshop.



ACIES Conclave at Indian Institute of Public Health, Gandhinagar, 18-20 January 2018



ACIES 2018 was organized by Indian Institute of Public Health, Gandhinagar, from 18th to 20th January 2018. Dr. Bhumika T.V., Dr. Eti Rajwar and Dr. Prachi Pundir represented PHESA at the conclave. Public Health Evidence South Asia was one of the nine collaborating universities in the conference. With oral presentations by all attending members and presentation in job fair, PHESA team members were active participants at the conference. Dr. Bhumika T.V. was felicitated for her participation in the 'Job Fair' for public health students of various participating universities. Dr. Prachi Pundir received the best oral presentation award presented by Dr. Jayanti Ravi, Commissioner of Health, Medical services and medical education, Gujarat.



East Asia Biennial Conference of International Biometric Society, 16-17 February 2018



East Asia Biennial Conference of International Biometric Society was held on February 16-17, 2018 at JIMPER, Puducherry. Dr. Bhumika T.V., Dr. Prachi Pundir, Dr. Shruti Murthy, Ms. Ann Mary Sebastian and Ms. Zinnia Sharma attended and presented at the conference. PHESA team members presented the ongoing projects at the conference.

Stanford NeoDesign, 2 March 2018

Stanford NeoDesign was conducted at Sir MV seminar hall, MIT campus, Manipal Academy of Higher Education on 2nd March, 2018. Dr. Divya Sussana Patil and Ms Syama U S attended the workshop. The major objective of this seminar was to get academicians, researchers, students, health professionals, engineers, government officials, NGOs and entrepreneurs who are focused on healthcare under one roof and brainstorm ways to work together to accelerate med-tech innovation in maternal and child health. The resource persons were from various fields like health, technology and business. The sessions helped in understanding how innovative technology could be used to improve healthcare.

PHESA Steering Committee Meeting, 1 February 2018



The steering committee meeting was held in Fortune Inn Valley View on 1st February 2018. Dr. Bhumika presented the past one-year work at PHESA during the meeting and discussions were held on the way forward and the future course of action for PHESA. Valuable feedback and suggestions were given by the eminent steering committee members regarding the same.

PHESA Collaborations

Cochrane Public Health Group	University of Melbourne
University of Groningen	EPPI Center
Department for International Development	3ie International Initiative for Impact Evaluation
World Health Organization	Campbell Collaboration
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	Prayas Health Group, Pune
The Inclen Trust International	Madras Diabetes Research Foundation

Trans-disciplinary Centre for Qualitative Research Methods (TCQM)

Summer school on Qualitative Research Methods for Health Sciences April 9-13, 2018



Trans-disciplinary Centre for Qualitative Research Methods (TCQM) in collaboration with Department of Community Medicine Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore and Manipal Academy for Higher Education, Manipal, organized Summer School on Qualitative Research Methods for Health Sciences. This Summer School was held at Manipal from April 9-13 and was attended by 13 participants from different universities from India and abroad.

The aim of the Summer school was to enhance the capacity of public health researchers in synthesizing evidence, using qualitative methods. Summer school sessions included lectures and practice on qualitative research designs, qualitative methods for data collection and data analysis with Atlas.ti software. Dr. Ajay Bailey, Assistant Professor Transnational Mobilities, International Development Studies, Department of Human Geography and Spatial Planning, Utrecht University and Dr. T. M. A. Pai Endowment Chair in Qualitative Methods, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal, Dr. Shrinivas Darak and Mr. Nikhil P.N., Research Scholar, University of Groningen, led the different sessions in Summer school.

Certificate course on qualitative research methods

TCQM is organizing a Certificate Course on Qualitative Research Methods. This certificate course is designed to teach various steps involved in qualitative research methods such as research design, participant recruitment, in depth interviews, focus group discussions, observations, data management, analysis and presentation to participants. Total 12 participants have been enrolled in the program and the course structure for the program includes both class room teachings and assignments. Each participant is working on an individual assignment with the aim to develop strong skills in qualitative research methods. This certificate course is designed and lead by Dr. Ajay Bailey.



Atlas.ti Qualitative Data Analysis Lab

As a centre aims to establish a regional hub for qualitative research, TCQM has established a Qualitative Data Analysis Lab with Atlas.ti software. This lab aims to become as a platform for young researchers to enhance their capacities in conducting qualitative research. This research lab is equipped five laptops with Atlas.ti software. Based on request, researchers can utilise the Atlas.ti lab facilities irrespective of their disciplines.

Publications

- Ajay Bailey and Colleagues (2018): 'I am the God of the House': How Albanian Rural Men Shift their Performance of Masculinities in the City. *Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies*,
- Ajay Bailey and Colleagues (2018). Contextualizing Elder Abuse and Neglect in Institutional and Home Settings: Case Studies from India. In Mala Kapur Shankardass & S. Irudaya Rajan (Eds.), *Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly in India* : Springer Singapore.
- Ajay Bailey & Ugargol, Allen Prabhaker (2018): Family caregiving for older adults - gendered roles and caregiver burden in emigrant households of Kerala, India. *Asian Population Studies*.
- Ajay Bailey and Colleagues (2018): Pathways to commitment in living-apart-together relationships in the Netherlands: A study on satisfaction, alternatives, investments and social support. *Advances in Life Course Research*
- Ajay Bailey and Colleagues (2017): 'For the sake of the family and future': the linked lives of highly skilled Indian migrants. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*
- Ajay Bailey and C. H Mulder (2017): Highly skilled migration between the Global North and South: gender, life courses and institutions. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*
- Ajay Bailey and Colleagues: Long-term chikungunya sequelae in Curaçao: burden, determinants and a novel classification tool. *Journal of Infectious Diseases*
- Ajay Bailey (2017). The migrant suitcase: Food, belonging and commensality among Indian migrants in The Netherlands. *Appetite*, 110, 51-60.

Indo-Dutch Lab

Indo Dutch Lab a new project initiative under progress aims to assist older adults in Udupi with Smart-home technologies.

New Staff

Mr. Nikhil P.N. has joined as new Research Associate in TCQM on 2nd May 2018. He has masters degree in Population Studies and Social Work, trained in qualitative research methods and Atlas.ti qualitative analysis software.



Internship/ exchange programmes

Ms. Anne Grent and Ms. Demi Koehl, Master students from International Development Studies, Utrecht University, The Netherlands, were in TCQM between 6th Feb – 12th May, 2018 as part of their research internship and conducted data collection in the Bylakuppe settlement in Karnataka state.

 **UP & COMING** events 2018 

- Cochrane colloquium 2018. The 2018 Cochrane Colloquium will be held in Edinburgh at the International Conference Centre in Scotland from 16-18 September 2018. It will be hosted by Cochrane UK. community.cochrane.org/news/cochrane-colloquium-edinburgh-2018
- Global Evidence and Implementation Summit (GEIS- 2018). GEIS-2018 will be held in Melbourne from 22-24 October 2018. <https://www.geis2018.org/>
- Faculty Development Program (FDP) on qualitative research methods (July to December 2018)
- Qualitative Research: Analysis course (October 2018)- Please track at <http://tcqm.manipal.edu/>
- Course on manuscript preparation from qualitative research findings- Please track at <http://tcqm.manipal.edu/>